



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

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## Early Childhood Education Alert

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ECSE 6

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### **To Early Childhood Special Education Administrators – Reporting Preschool Service Codes**

Per the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), because regular public preschool education programs are not consistently available through local education agencies across the country, it is necessary to look to other settings where preschool-aged children are typically found during the day, and to use those settings as proxies for “regular education” settings. For children attending a regular early childhood program, this reflects early childhood settings where typically developing children are found during the day in the community and is considered, for data collection purposes, the preschool counterpart of school-aged regular education environments.

OSEP understands the concern that the new reporting requirements may reflect circumstances where parents pay for their child to attend an early childhood program, and that the LEA’s preschool educational environments data may be enhanced because of those parental choices. OSEP emphasizes that the revised data collection/service codes do not relieve local education agencies of their obligation to meet the least restrictive environment requirements for preschool children with disabilities in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.114 – 300.120.